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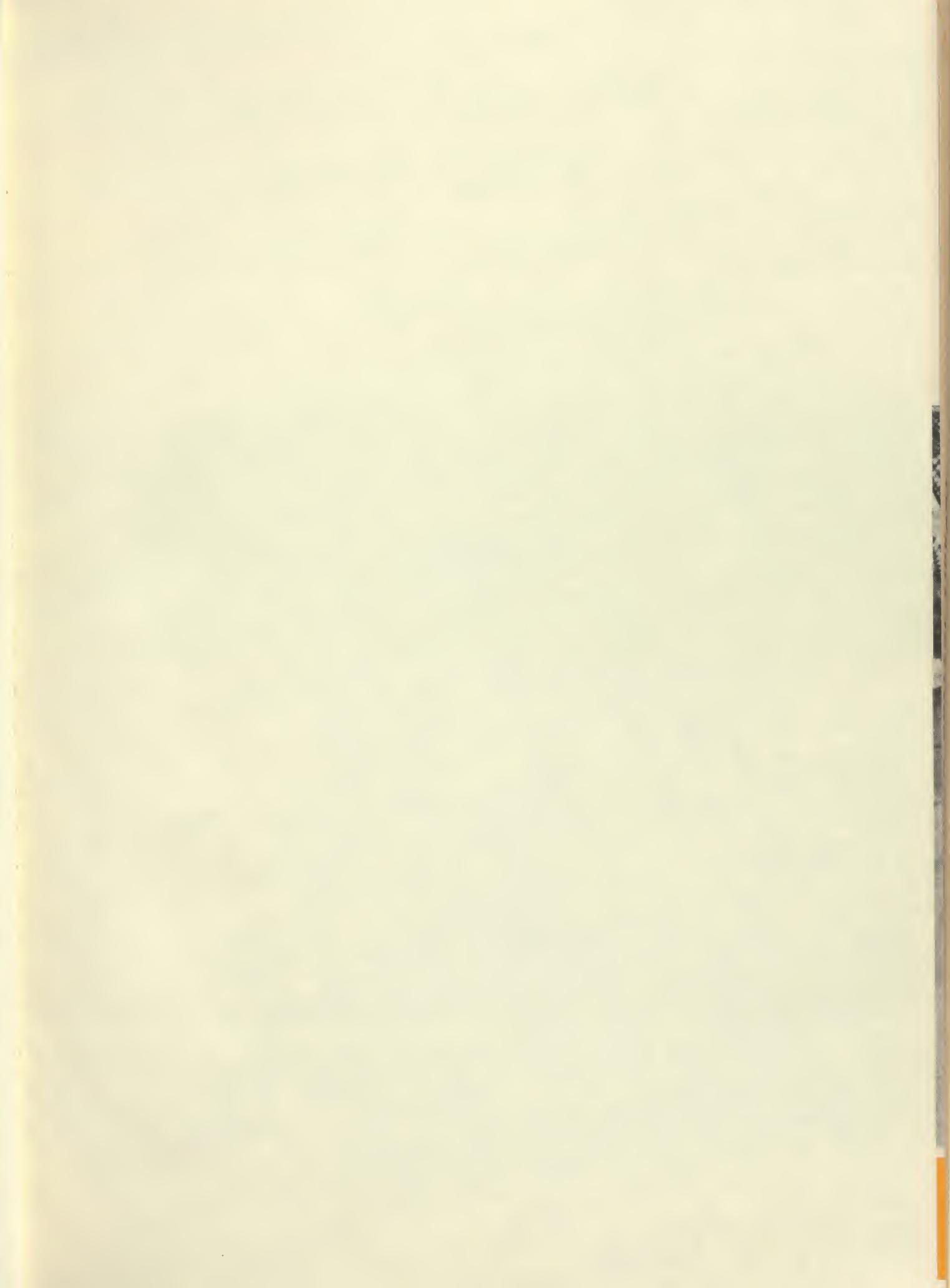
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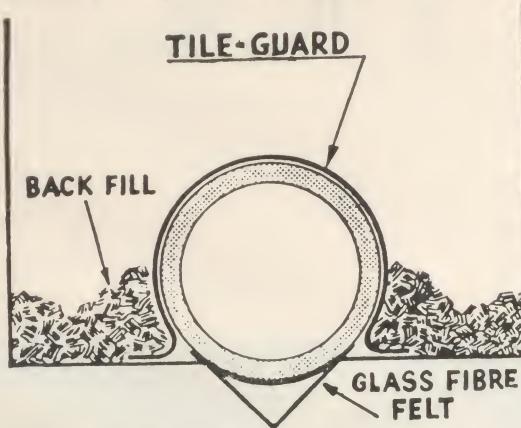
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In This Issue

Cover: The Raptor Research Centre
at Macdonald College received a
\$2,500 White Owl grant on Novem-
ber 13, 1974. Admiring a snowy owl
who-oo-oo-oo eagerly accepted the
cheque were from left to right: Mary
Lynn Reimer from the White Owl
Awards Committee, Mr. David Bird,
Curator, Professor Roger Bider, Di-
rector, and Mr. Norman Pascoe who,
as a member of the White Owl Con-
servation Awards Committee, pre-
sented the cheque.

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Journal Jottings

We have had some reactions,
as we hoped we would, from
readers who read the articles
"Coyotes and Other Pests" and
"PAW" in the November issue
of the Journal. These comments,
some of which will appear in a
future issue, reminded me of how
difficult it was, in trying to put
everything into proper perspective,
to have to point the accusing
finger at different animals — par-
ticularly farm dogs. Unfortunately,
some farm dogs do go astray,
but it is unnecessary in this space

and with our readers to dwell on
the value, both monetary and
intrinsic, of the good, hard-working,
and faithful canine that is found
on most farms. A dog hasn't been
a part of my "family" for years
— not since the Lakeshore or, as
it is now known, West Island
grew up and dogs had to be tied
or on a leash at all times. I was
surprised, therefore, to learn that
two varieties of dog ticks, the
American dog tick and the brown
dog tick, are causing some concern
in Canada. Dr. Morrison's article
in this issue wasn't deliberately
planned as an appeasement for

some of the unkind, but true,
statements made about dogs, but
I admit my conscience has been
eased somewhat by its publication.
Please keep a close check on your
dog and, if you should find evidence
of these ticks, follow Dr. Morrison's
advice. Please check our other
articles in this issue. If you are a
dairy farmer, they're must reading.

Hazel M. Clarke

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The recent tie-up of grain shipments along the St. Lawrence Seaway illustrates how vulnerable our nation's food producing capability actually is. To some of us it may seem absolutely inconceivable that a handful of men (approximately 200) could jeopardize the food supply of what one has to consider to be one of the largest and most efficient food producing systems in the world. But it has happened, and what is even more alarming is the ease with which it could be repeated in the near future.

What this situation does illustrate is how interdependent our agricultural industry has become with other industrial and economic aspects of our economy. Gone are the days when farmers could think of themselves as independent producers. Most farmers are painfully aware of this economic interdependence when they have to purchase feed, fertilizer, machinery, and gasoline in these days of rapidly inflated prices. This interdependence is viewed by most agricultural producers as a definite handicap — a necessary evil that must be tolerated and planned for in next year's budget. While it is hard to convince someone who has

to pay these rising costs that this by-product of economic interdependence should not be viewed only as a disadvantage, perhaps the current disadvantage may be made to become an advantage to the farmer in future years. What I mean is now the farmer has become an integral link in the food production chain which has many links in other parts of the economy. Almost overnight the farmer has taken on new respectability and prestige in the eyes of the consumer and other links in the food chain. He has suddenly become important because food prices have suddenly become important. The farmer is now in a position to exert strong influence or to control our food resources that have suddenly become unusually scarce and expensive.

This new position of economic authority can be utilized to greatly increase economic returns to the farmer if it is used with wisdom and discretion. But the danger perhaps lies in the unbridled use of this new influence and power to achieve our objective at any cost, no matter how hard it hurts the consumer whom we have been subsidizing with cheap food all these years. This is the revenge

or the vengeance approach that almost always produces an equal if not stronger reaction from those affected by the original action. This is the type of overuse of power that I would hate to see started in agriculture's bargaining with consumers and other industrial groups. It is tempting, is dramatic and makes us feel good for a short while, but in the long run it is the type of approach that may do much to unravel all the gains in stature agriculture has achieved during the past year. The decision is yours to make. Have a happy and prosperous new year.

Gordon Bachman

Recent Developments in the Genetic Evaluation of Dairy Sires

Professor B. W. Kennedy,
Department of Animal Science
and Director of Research,
Dairy Herd Analysis Service

A bull housed with an active artificial breeding organization will sire during his lifetime many thousands of daughters, and the overall milk production abilities of these daughters will constitute his genetic legacy to the dairy cattle population. With artificial insemination (AI), the genetic and economic consequences of using a good or a poor bull are enormous. For example, in a single generation, the economic difference in value of milk produced, at today's milk prices, between daughters of a bull that average 1000 lbs. of milk yearly above contemporaries and daughters of a bull that are 1000 lbs. below average would amount to about \$400,000 if the bulls were to produce 20,000 daughters each. In Quebec each year, fewer than 20 bulls are used to breed most of the AI cow population. This, of course, is the power of AI — to find the genetically best bulls and breed them as heavily as possible. While theoretically this sounds easy, the reality of determining which bulls are genetically best is not simple.

The procedure for finding superior bulls for use in AI begins first with an examination of the pedigrees of young bulls that are potential AI candidates. A small number of the young bulls with the most promising pedigrees, that is, whose sires are top-rated and dams are exceptional milk producers, are then selected as young sires and enter the AI unit. However, initially these young sires are not widely used. Rather, the young sires are merely sampled or bred artificially to a limited number of cows, usually between 400 and 800, and then retired to await their "proof". The young bull's proof depends upon the milk producing abilities of his daughters. If the daughters

of a bull indicate that he is genetically good, his retirement is only temporary, about three years, and he is then placed in active service to breed large numbers of cows. If indications are that the bull is genetically poor, his retirement becomes permanent and he is removed from the AI unit.

However, the estimation of a bull's genetic worth is a little more complicated than simply looking at the average milk production of his daughters. Raw averages can be misleading in estimating genetic merit as they can include biases due to environmental factors and errors due to sample size. For



example, 75 per cent of the differences between cows for milk production are, on average, attributable to environmental effects and only 25 per cent are caused by genetic differences. The problem for the animal breeder is that he wishes to concentrate on the genetic differences, but real genetic differences are often masked by environmental influences. The herd in which the cow is milking is the most important environmental factor. If, for example, daughters of a particular sire are primarily located in well managed herds and daughters of another sire are found mostly in poorly managed herds, the bull with daughters in the more favour-

able environment would appear better even though he may be genetically inferior. Other important environmental effects which, if uncorrected for, can result in misleading indications of genetic worth are year, season, and age of cow at calving.

To provide a more accurate evaluation of the genetic merit of bulls, the "herdmate comparison", which adjusts or corrects records for these environmental factors, is commonly used. With the herdmate comparison, records of a daughter's sire are compared to the production of her herdmates, that is daughters of other sires that calved in the same herd and during the year and season. Also, all records are age adjusted by use of correction factors. The milk records of a sire's daughters are expressed, therefore, as an age adjusted deviation from the herd-year-season average of their contemporaries. This system removes much of the environmental variation in milk records.

A second refinement is the use of a weighting factor for the number of daughters that are included in a bull's average herdmate deviation. In Table 1, two bulls, A and B, each with average herdmate deviations of +1000 lbs, are listed. However, bull A's average is based on 15 daughters and bull B's average is based on 45 daughters. All other factors being equal, most breeders would choose B over A because they would, intuitively, have more confidence in an average based on a larger number of daughters.

Intuition is less helpful in choosing between bull A and C. Bull A has

an average herdmate deviation of +1000 based on 15 daughters compared to an average herdmate deviation of +800 based on 45 daughters for bull C. We may be wary of bull A's average because it is based on relatively few records, that is the potential for sampling error is high. On the other hand, although we have more confidence in bull C's average because it is based on a larger number of daughters, the average herdmate deviation of C is lower than that of A.

Genetic theory helps us to resolve the dilemma through weighting factors for different numbers of daughters. The appropriate weighting factor for average herdmate milk yield deviations is $n/(n+15)$, where n represents the number of daughters in a bull's average. For bull A, the weighting factor is $15/(15+15) = 1/2$. The weighting factor for bull C is $45/(45+15) = 3/4$. The weighting factor multiplied by the average herdmate deviation gives the sire's proof. In our example, therefore, bull A's proof is $(+1000) \times (1/2) = +500$ lbs and Bull C's proof is $(+800) \times (3/4) = +600$ lbs. Our best estimates, therefore, of the genetic values for milk production of future daughters of bulls A and C are +500 lbs and +600 lbs respectively. Accordingly, bull C would be chosen over bull A.

The preceding examples illustrate the herdmate method of sire evaluation. The herdmate method, or variations of it, has been the generally used procedure in North America for proving AI sires for some time now. Unfortunately, the herdmate method is based on certain assumptions which, although valid at the time it was introduced,

have been shown by recent research to no longer hold true. Some of these assumptions are:

1) There is no genetic trend in the population. This assumption is self-contradictory since the purpose of sire selection is genetic improvement in the population. Although at the time of the introduction of the herdmate method of sire evaluation the genetic level of our dairy cattle populations was reasonably static, rapid genetic improvement has occurred more recently with the widespread use and acceptance of AI. As an example, the genetic level of daughters of young bulls tested in



Quebec has been increasing by an average of approximately 80 lbs of milk per year (Figure 1). Genetic trends of this nature result in unfair herdmate comparisons between old and young bulls because the herdmates of the old bulls are genetically inferior to the herdmates of the younger bulls. This

biases sire proofs in favour of older bulls.

2) All sires are sampled from a single static population. This assumption is also no longer true. With genetic trend (Figure 1), each year young sires are sampled from genetically different populations. Also, there are genetic differences between geographical regions, and different AI organizations do not always use the same genetic criteria in selecting young sires. In short, there exists a number of genetically different sub-populations within our national dairy population.

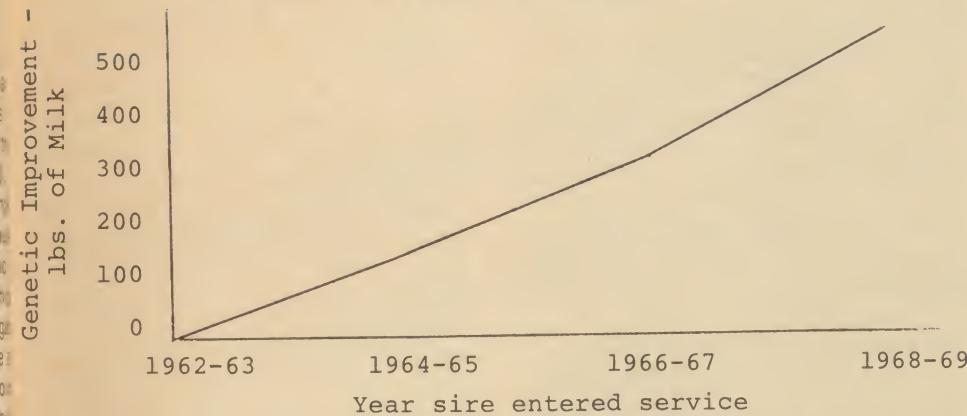
3) All daughters of bulls are distributed randomly across all herds. This is not so. Good breeders use mostly good bulls; poor breeders use mostly poor bulls. In other words, some bulls face stiffer competition than others. With the herdmate comparison, the bull that is up against the heavy competition is penalized and the bull with genetically poor herdmates looks better than he should. The herdmate method does not account for differences in the level of competition between bulls.

4) There is no differential culling among daughters of a bull compared to that of their herdmates. Research has shown this assumption to be invalid also. Daughters of some bulls are more heavily culled than others. This can bias herdmate proofs.

Table 1. Herdmate deviations weighted for numbers of daughters

Bull	No. of Daughters	Average Herdmate Deviation	Weighting Factor (n/(n + 15))	Bull Proof
A	15	+1000	1/2	+500
B	45	+1000	3/4	+750
C	45	+800	3/4	+600

Genetic trend in milk yield of daughters of Quebec young sires



5) A bull's daughters do not receive preferential treatment over their herdmates. This assumption is still reasonably valid in commercial herds using AI since there is no financial advantage to the commercial dairyman to favour daughters of one AI bull over another. For natural service proofs, where the breeder owns the bull he is proving, preferential treatment can constitute a real problem for the bull's owner has a vested interest in making the bull look as good as possible.

These deficiencies of current herdmate methods have led to the recent development of improved sire evaluation techniques. The most promising of these new methods is the direct sire comparison developed at Cornell University. Although it is complicated to explain in detail, the direct comparison is free of many deficiencies that have become apparent with current herdmate procedures. The biases caused by genetic trend and genetically different sub-populations are eliminated by placing sires into genetically distinct groups. For example, in the northeastern United States, where the direct comparison has already been instituted, sires are grouped by year of first

service within AI unit. The direct comparison also accounts for the sires of herdmates so that bulls are evaluated according to the level



of their competition. In addition, the problem of differential culling among sires in later lactations is avoided by using only first lactation records. Because only first lactation records are used, problems of inappropriate age correction factors are reduced. Lastly, because of the possibility of preferential treatment, only daughters of AI sires are included.

In Canada, research on improved sire evaluation methods is currently being conducted at Macdonald, the University of Guelph, and Agriculture Canada's Animal Research Institute. Much of this research

effort involves testing the feasibility and practicality of implementing the direct comparison or similar improved methods in Canada. Other improvements are also being considered.

Both the herdmate and direct comparison procedures are based on the assumption that the sires being evaluated are unrelated. A recent study at Macdonald has shown that a good number of sires, both between and within AI units, are related to each other. However, the direct comparison method is flexible enough that it can be easily modified to account for these relationships. This has been done, on a research basis, and indications are that accounting for these relationships provides a 10 per cent improvement in the accuracy of sire proofs.

No sire proof, whatever the method of obtaining it, is perfect. A sire proof is merely an estimate or prediction of the average genetic value of daughters of the sire being evaluated. There is always an element of error, and, simply by chance a dairy farmer may obtain a genetically inferior cow from a top-rated proven sire. The judicious use of sire proofs, however, weighs the odds in favour of the dairyman, and as methods of AI sire evaluation improve, so do the odds for the dairyman. In the lexicon of the animal geneticist, our goal in sire evaluation is to maximize the probability of correctly ranking AI sires for genetic value for milk production. In the language of the dairy farmer, this helps him to develop an increasingly sound dairy herd that puts more milk in the pail and more money in the pocket.

Providing Protein for Stock Feed in Quebec

The subject of protein crops is always topical; it is, also, always of importance to Quebec farmers who are continually being encouraged to grow their own rather than rely on imports to the province. Professor Norman Lawson of the Agronomy Department took a few minutes from his busy schedule to answer a few questions which we thought you might ask if you were doing the interviewing. If you have other questions on this or related topics, send them in and we will be very pleased to try and get the answers for you. My questions appear in italics. Hazel M. Clarke.

Before we get to the Quebec situation, Professor Lawson, I would like to ask you if you can see Canada ever becoming an exporter of forage crops?

Professor Lawson: I was very interested to read in the popular agricultural press recently that British farmers were importing Canadian baled hay. They were, indeed, prepared to pay £100 a ton; that is about \$240 for this material. They had in the past been prepared to pay £60 a ton for their own material. I believe that the Canadian exported hay had, of course, a high content of alfalfa, and this is another indication of how seriously the world requires protein.

Is there anything interesting happening in western Canada concerning the export of hay?

Professor Lawson: The Japanese have had for some time a problem providing protein for their poultry industry. An alfalfa dehydrating plant was set up recently in northern Saskatchewan which is

designed to produce pellets for export to Japan. The Japanese are apparently very happy with the material they are getting. They believe that egg production and quality is going to improve immensely as a result.

Getting back to Quebec, what has been happening with the protein situation in this province?

Professor Lawson: In the spring of 1974 many dairy farmers who went out to look at their alfalfa fields were very disappointed. We had had a year of considerable winterkill. As always, this was variable and many parts of Quebec have enjoyed an excellent harvest of alfalfa. As you know the provincial government is trying to promote alfalfa culture with their "Operation Alfalfa" program. This appears to be going right ahead and quite successfully. However, in looking at alfalfa fields this summer, it was clear that the traditional problems remain with us in many cases. The first situation that has to be rectified is drainage. Alfalfa cannot be grown without adequate surface and subterranean drainage. Secondly, the pH situation still has to be rectified. A number of farmers are attempting to grow alfalfa in soils that are too acid. Thirdly, the provision of phosphorus and potassium in many cases needs to be increased. There just isn't enough of these fertilizer elements being applied to get the really high crops of alfalfa that are possible.

Why is there this tremendous emphasis on alfalfa production in Quebec?

Professor Lawson: The answer to this question is to compare the protein yields of different crops. For example, you can compare the protein yields of cereals, which everybody knows is mainly an energy source, with the yields received from forage crops, and if you compare the forage crop protein yields with yields obtainable say from soybeans, fababeans, and field peas, the conclusion is quite simply that alfalfa as a forage crop has got a tremendous potential for protein production.

An analysis of alfalfa indicates that there can be a protein percentage of 16 to 24 per cent if the material is cut young enough. If we are able to harvest five tons of dry matter per year on our alfalfa fields at 20 per cent protein level, this, I believe, gives us a yield of one ton of protein per acre. The only other crop that comes near to this is probably red clover which stands up to a similarly high comparison. The problem with red clover is that there are many years when it suffers from winterkilling.

Are there any other problems with alfalfa?

Professor Lawson: For some time we have been concerned about the alfalfa weevil in Quebec, but I am happy to say that we believe that the alfalfa weevil is definitely on the decline. This summer we noted a leaf miner which seemed to be much more active than it had been in the past, and some local

damage was recorded by this insect. Another insect which causes some trouble in mid season is the leaf hopper. Frequently, as a result of its attack, we find red leaves devoid of chlorophyll and of reduced feeding value.

Is there anything that the farmer can do about these insects?

Professor Lawson: There are insecticides that have been recommended. The problem is that once these insecticides get into the milk we have obviously a contamination situation. Generally, we are very reluctant to recommend the spraying of alfalfa fields because of the danger. We do believe that simple biological control is the best, and a management practice that every farmer can use is to cut early. We find that if the first harvest cut is taken June 10 to 15, then we can very often get control of these insects.

With our weather, June 10 to 15 seems very early.

Professor Lawson: Unquestionably there may be a problem drying this to a suitable consistency for hay. The solution is haylage. One should wilt the material as much as possible in the field because obviously extremely wet silage does create an intake problem for the dairy cow. So the drier the haylage is in general the better the results will be.

Turning to another crop, how fabulous is the fababean?

Professor Lawson: There has been a great deal of excitement over this so-called new protein crop. Of course, there is nothing really new about it at all. It was known as the horsebean and the tickbean for many, many years, and European farmers have always grown this as a protein crop. There are more problems, it seems to me, with the fababean at the moment than there is real potential. For example, a recent study coming from western Canada, Alberta, to be precise, indicated that in short seasons there just simply are not enough days to mature fababeans. In eastern Canada we usually don't have a maturity problem; however, in the last few years at Macdonald College we have had a very severe disease problem. There appear to be two diseases attacking the fababeans, and we find that they are seed borne. The seeds, therefore, cannot be used in a subsequent year for replanting, and this can be a severe disadvantage. The yields have tended to be disappointing, also. There are some parts of the province where conditions are cool and moist and it seems there may be a place for fababeans there, but I think their use is going to be limited in the warmer parts of the province.

What is happening with soybeans?

Professor Lawson: The United States certainly had a good crop last year, and we in Canada have become increasingly concerned that we should not become dependent on the United States over the next few years for our supply of soybeans. Here at Macdonald College we are now undertaking a

breeding program to produce cultivars of soybeans that are more suited to the short season, cool conditions that we get on the margins of soybean production. Our trials with early, or short season, soybeans in the last three years have indicated clearly that we can get, even in cool years, reasonably good yields with soybeans. It is necessary to grow soybeans in narrow rows. This, of course, means that herbicides have to be used because the narrow rows prevent inter-row cultivation. The herbicides recommended for soybeans nowadays are quite reliable. I was very interested to hear, however, that at the moment in parts of Ontario where soybeans are traditionally grown only 50 percent of the farmers use herbicides for their soybeans; the other 50 per cent still rely on the traditional inter-row cultivation. These farmers, of course, are the ones who have the lower yields because it is only by close spacing that we can optimize our yields.

In the press recently meteorologists have been discussing the possibility of Canada having a cooler climate in the future. If this should happen, will it have an effect on soybean production?

Professor Lawson: Most certainly. In our thinking about providing improved varieties suited to a short number of days to maturity we have this in mind. A very small reduction in our mean temperature during the summer months is going to make the production of soybeans extremely difficult, so we must get earlier soybeans suited to the cooler climate.

Are there any other crops that we could be considering for protein production?

Professor Lawson: In the last two years we have been looking at the field pea. This is a traditional crop which has been ignored for many years. There have been problems with the field pea, most particularly in harvesting. The traditional method of growing peas is, of course, to mix them with some cereal crop, be it wheat, oats, or barley, hoping that the cereal crop will support the pea plant and also that the plants can be reasonably harvested and thrashed. This past summer we have had a student looking into this problem of what is a suitable companion crop and what is a suitable mixture. Clearly the farmer wants the maximum yield of peas with a minimum amount of support cereal. I hope to be able to tell you a little about these results at a subsequent opportunity.

What is the latest information on the Peruvian anchovy?

Professor Lawson: There certainly were a few days when it appeared that the Peruvian anchovy had returned to its traditional grounds. However, I gather that the Peruvian anchovy fisheries have once more ceased to harvest that particular commodity and I can anticipate that there will be difficulty in getting supplies of fishmeal. It seems also that fisheries throughout the world are highly concerned these days about a situation of over-fishing which has been occurring for many years and the prospects for the future can only be considered as

being bad. That is to say over-fishing in the past presumably has led to the present depopulation of the fish species and some years of easy fishing will be required to recover. My informants tell me that large countries such as Japan and the Soviet Union, who are at present fishing in many parts of the globe, are not at all enthusiastic about reducing their current fish harvests.

This interview will be appearing in the January issue. Over the next few winter months what should the farmer be considering in terms of seeds and crops for the coming year?

Professor Lawson: I think that a farmer at this time of year should make up his mind that he must order his seed extremely early, and all farmers in Quebec must be concerned with the provision of a good protein supply to feed their livestock during next winter. It seems to me that farmers should be thinking about their legume seeds, both the forage legumes and the larger seeded legumes, and unless orders are placed for these extremely early in 1975 there will most certainly be a serious supply situation.

Dog Ticks

by Professor Frank O. Morrison,
Department of Entomology.

Ticks are bloodsucking parasites of man and animals. Throughout the world they exist in many forms and sizes and with varying degrees of economic importance. Their bloodsucking habits make them undesirable even when the little blood toll they take may be very insignificant and no other crimes can be pinned on them. Many ticks, however, are guilty of aiding and abetting some of the world's most serious diseases of man and animals by harbouring the disease-causing organisms and keeping them alive in between their attacks on bigger hosts and by not only nurturing them but transporting the organisms and delivering them right into the blood streams of susceptible host animals.

Two such ticks which live on dogs are becoming yearly more and more abundant in the Montreal area. They are known as the *American dog tick* and the *brown dog tick*. If your family owns one or more dogs, you are very likely to make the acquaintance of one or both of these pests sooner or later. The acquaintance may be at a distance, i.e., they are feeding on your dog, or with worse luck you make closer acquaintance should they attach themselves to you or to one of your family.

The *American dog tick* is an outdoor tick. It reproduces only once a year. Your dog or you are most likely to acquire it in the fields in early or mid summer. When it settles down to feed it stays in one place. The life history of this kind of tick is hazardous but interesting. Fully engorged (i.e. blood fed and swollen to a grotesque size) female ticks drop from the host dog, fox, coyote, wolf, etc.) in summer and

wander about on the ground among the grass roots and find themselves a hiding place among the roots and soil where they spend the winter. Some young ticks or nymphs also overwinter. In the spring they become active. The adults deposit several thousands of eggs near the place where they dropped. Out of these eggs come tiny six-legged creatures or tick larvae, about the size of a period on this page. They crawl up grass stems and hang on by one or two pairs of legs while waving the front legs about. A hapless mouse or any other small mammal brushes past (a likely event since mother tick dropped off along a path or trail), and the baby tick transfers to the moving fur coat. In an hour or so it crawls around in the forest of hair to a favourable spot, usually on the neck or shoulders, inserts its little beak and begins its first meal. The insertion of the beak is not felt by the host. In from two to three days it drops off, has a sleep, sheds its now too tight skin, and emerges as a nymph, a little bigger and more tick-like with four pairs of legs and with more wrinkles for expansion. It repeats its hunt for a host and a chance to attach. It is a patient little creature. Unfed larvae and nymphs live from 15 to 540 days in captivity. What if some never make it; mother tick foresaw that eventuality when she produced such an enormous number of eggs. The nymph feeds for from three to twelve days, drops, moults, and after a varying period on the soil is ready to feed again. There are now clearly two sexes. The male has a hard decorated plate covering his whole back; the female has a smaller plate covering the front part of her body but leaving the abdomen free to bloat

up like a little balloon. These adults are more venturesome, climb up on higher weed stocks and branches of small bushes. Again they make contact with a furry host. Dogs or their relatives are preferred. This adult is the only stage that will attack man and commonly does so. Hikers, farmers, and other outdoor people who frequent roads, paths, or tracks where vegetation is heavy are likely to meet up with these dog ticks. Once on Fido they crawl about for some time but finally the urge to get blood leads to the insertion of the beak and the creature is fixed there for about a week. Again no pain is inflicted. The male ticks may feed occasionally and lightly or not at all, and constantly moves about seeking a female to mate with. After some days these gentlemen fall off and die. The female swells up to be a bag of eggs. This takes from five to thirteen days and it is at this stage that the tick is usually discovered on the dog. The partly or fully engorged tick is now bluish and rather shapeless. Since the little plate behind the head hasn't expanded, it is barely visible. The tick is hard to remove since the mouth parts are deep in the skin. Pulling the tick off leaves the head in and may create an ulcer that has to be cut out. A drop of ether from the end of a toothpick or the warm end of a newly extinguished match may encourage the tick to let go. These persuaders are best used while the tick is *gently* pulled away with a delicate pair of forceps. If the tick is killed while attached it will likely be necessary to remove the mouth parts surgically.

Loss of blood is one injury the dog is sure to suffer. In general that seems to be about all. However,

occasionally one of these ticks may carry a bacteria-like creature called a rickettsia, which, should it be introduced into the blood of man, results in a serious, though not generally fatal, disease called Rocky Mountain Spotted fever. This organism has of course to be picked up by the tick from an animal that carries it. The name comes from the fact that the disease is best known in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains. A few cases have occurred in humans in Massachusetts and the eastern United States. No instance has occurred in eastern Canada yet, but the possibility exists. Another bacterium, the causal agent of rabbit fever (*Tularaemia*), may also be picked up from an infected rabbit and passed on to man. Related ticks in British Columbia and Alberta cause a strange paralysis in young cattle and man but there are no records of paralysis, that I know of, due to dog ticks.

The brown dog tick is a different creature, and your chances of encountering it are much higher than those of encountering the American dog tick. It may well cause you more concern and temporary discomfort. The brown dog tick looks very much like the American dog tick but is slightly smaller; $\frac{1}{8}$ inch long compared to $\frac{1}{4}$ inch for the American dog tick before it feeds. The shield or hard back is uniform red-brown with no white markings, while that of the American dog tick is dark brown mottled with white. The shield of the female only covers the front half of the body, but in the male it covers the whole body. The life history is only partly similar. The tick is most likely to be picked up in houses, kennels, and places frequented by dogs (under the

porch, etc.), but not in the field. It is confined exclusively to dogs except for an occasional emergency meal on man or possibly a rodent. Since the whole life is spent in buildings and each stage has a period before it finds a host to attach to, free moving ticks of all stages may be found on floors or walls, anywhere the dog has been. The family dog picks up ticks from an infected residence, boarding kennel, or veterinarian's office where some other dog dropped them. Or a visiting dog drops them in your house. They do not transfer directly from dog to dog. The ticks must drop and moult first. The larva (1st stage) needs three to seven days of feeding, the nymph four to nine. Adults may live up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ years and need from six to fifty days of feeding to engorge. Because they are indoors they need not follow such a strict seasonal cycle as the American dog tick. All stages can occur at the same time both on and off the dog. Adult females lay 4,000 to 5,000 eggs between boards, under straw or stones, under plaster in cracks at any height on a wall. Eggs hatch in 19 days. Larvae awaiting a host may live up to 253 days. Nymphs seldom live more than three months off the dog, but have lived six months. Finding ticks moving about on walls or floors, or all stages present on the dog in late fall or winter is almost certain to indicate that your visitors are brown dog ticks. Because of these on-off and hideaway habits it is not enough to treat the dog to remove the trouble, but the places where the dog lives have to be disinfested also.

When ticks turn up find out what kind they are. Send specimens to the Department of Entomology at MacDonald College. Ship them in little plastic bottles or boxes, well sealed. To disinfest the dog seek the advice of your veterinarian or buy a patent tick treatment and follow the instructions on the label. Be sure the product is recommended for his use on the label.

Buildings can be disinfested with one per cent Baygon®, one per cent diazinon and other materials as residual sprays, but be sure the product you use is registered for the use you make of it. The label will tell you. Follow it exactly. Do not treat your dog with these materials. Check with your veterinarian.

If you know that your dog or local dogs picked up ticks in the field last year, avoid letting your dog run in the fields and woods from mid-May to mid-June when the American dog ticks are most common. Of course, occasional ticks are picked up before and after this period.

The Family

Farm

Published in the interests
of the farmers of the province
by the Quebec Department of
Agriculture.

INCREASE IN AID FOR RAISERS OF BEEF CATTLE

In view of the difficulties cow-calf operators are facing in marketing their calves, the Quebec Department of Agriculture has decided to make the following changes in its "Beef Cattle" program.

1) Statutory grant for each animal unit wintered in 1974-75

3) No increase in the size of the herd is required for the 1974-75 wintering period.

4) Special grant for the 1974-75 wintering period based on the number of animal units made up of males weighing from 300 to 700 pounds. This grant is intended to enable beef cattle raisers to obtain better prices.

Although limited geographically to northeastern North America, maple syrup production faces numerous marketing problems owing to the fact that those concerned are scattered; each state and even each producer mostly sees to the sales of its or his own products.

This international body will also be responsible for regulating the stocks of syrup, which differ widely seasonally as regards quality and quantity, and also for finding new outlets for maple products of inferior quality.

The meeting on November 18th was chaired by Mr. Jean-Pierre Potvin, maple products specialist with the Quebec Department of Agriculture's Marketing Division. The chief speaker was Mr. Lawrence D. Garrett, economist in charge of maple products marketing at Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Burlington, a U.S. federal government establishment.

Animal Units	Previous Program	Present Program (general provincial)	Northwestern Quebec
From 20 to 30	\$25	\$45	\$55
From 31 to 40	20	35	45
41 and up	15	30	40

2) Grant of \$20, for the 1974-75 wintering period only, for each animal unit in excess of 75.

These grants are available to all agricultural producers meeting the conditions already laid down in the Department of Agriculture's "Beef Cattle" program.

Forthcoming Creation of International Maple Products Institute

An International Maple Products Institute is to be set up in the near future. This institute will be composed of persons concerned with maple syrup production in Canada and the United States and will deal with marketing problems and seek for new outlets for maple products.

The institute is the outcome of a meeting held in Montreal on November 18th attended by nearly 60 representatives of maple syrup producers and processors and the governments concerned.

The meeting, organized by the Marketing Division of the Quebec Department of Agriculture, was in a sense a world "first". Its aim was to focus the efforts of all those involved, with a view to better planning of maple products marketing.

Those attending the meeting therefore considered how such planning should be undertaken, and they entrusted the preparation of the International Institute's maple products program to a committee composed of five Canadian and five American members. In doing so, they empowered the forthcoming institute to consider problems of marketing on a North American scale and also of finding new markets for maple products.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROGRAM

1. Promotion of artificial insemination

Purpose: The genetic improvement of our dairy and beef cattle is the prime factor in their productivity and profitability. Being well aware of this fact and desiring to improve the province's herds rapidly to meet competition, the Department of Agriculture aims to make maximum use of the bulls kept at St. Hyacinthe for the purpose of artificial insemination.

The Department offers all Quebec farmers a policy of aid with the object of generalizing the use of artificial insemination.

Type of Aid:

The Department's aid consists in paying part of the cost of first mating when carried out with semen used by cattle breeding clubs under contract with the Quebec A.I. Centre at St. Hyacinthe.

Conditions:

The farmer must:

a) be a member in good standing of a cattle breeding club which is incorporated in the Province of Quebec and under contract with the Quebec A.I. Centre and whose inseminators are bound by the said contract to make two rounds on weekdays and one on Sunday;

b) apply to an inseminator of a cattle breeding club which is under contract with the Quebec A.I. Centre and offers satisfactory assurance that the provisions of the act governing the artificial insemination of cattle and the A.I. centre's regulations will be respected.

Method of Payment:

For all breeding clubs, the charge for a first mating is four dollars (\$4.00) to each member. The cost sharing by the Department varies according to the classification of the club, which in turn is determined by designated representatives of the Department. The classification system is based on information of the agricultural region and takes into account two (2) factors to evaluate the cost of insemination in a given club. These factors are: 1 — the distance to travel and 2 — the potential within the club.

There are six categories for each factor: A — B — C — D — E — F.

The 36 combinations of these two factors are shown in the accompanying table with the distance factor (D) as the horizontal axis and the potential factor (P) as the vertical axis. The cost of insemination is calculated by taking the average of the two factors at their intersection.

- Category A, 85% or more of the cow population;
- category B, 75-84%
- category C, 65-74%
- category D, 55-64%
- category E, 45-54%
- category F, less than 45%.

b) Potential factor:

The category for a club is also rated on potential or cow population within the club territory.

D P ↓	A	B	C	D	E	F
A	AA	BA	CA	DA	EA	FA
B	AB	BB	CB	DB	EB	FB
C	AC	BC	CC	DC	EC	FC
D	AD	BD	CD	DD	ED	FD
E	AE	BE	CE	DE	EE	FE
F	AF	BF	CF	DF	EF	FF
12.00	9.00	9.50	10.00	10.50	11.00	12.00

Club Categories:

a) Distance factor:

The category for a club is determined by the percentage of the cow population within a 15 mile radius of the centre of the club territory.

- Category A, the potential is 10,000 or more cows;
- category B, the potential is 8,000-9,999 cows;
- category C, the potential is 6,000-7,999 cows;
- category D, the potential is 5,000-5,999 cows;
- category E, the potential is 4,000-4,999 cows;
- category F, the potential is less than 4,000 cows.

Following verification of breeding certificates by the Quebec A.I. Centre, each club under contract with it will receive a monthly cheque for the number of first inseminations carried out by its inseminators.

It is understood that each cattle breeding club will retain the funds required for its administration out of the insemination fee, as follows:

- a) clubs having category AA, BB, and BA will retain one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50);
- b) clubs having category AC, BB, CA, AD, BC, CB, and DA will retain one dollar and seventy-five cents (1.75);
- c) all other clubs will retain two dollars (\$2.00).

II. Progeny testing of young dairy bulls

Purpose: The importance of using plus proven bulls is well known. In order to make sure of having enough proven sires, the Quebec A.I. Centre has to progeny test as many young bulls as possible every year.

This program enables us to find out the hereditary potential of dairy bulls as accurately as possible.

Steps in the Program:

1. For each dairy breed, the A.I. Centre buys only young bulls with excellent conformation and outstanding pedigree;
2. Semen is taken from these young bulls as soon as they are sufficiently well developed physiologically. The semen is then frozen

and distributed to the district inseminators for use as soon as possible;

3. for most breeds, 250 matings are sufficient to evaluate a bull's hereditary potential but, in the case of Holsteins, 400 matings are needed, because of exports;

4. when the required number of matings has been made, the young bull is removed from regular service until his daughters' performance is known. During this waiting period, further supplies of his frozen semen are stored;

5. if the bull's progeny prove superior, he is immediately returned to regular service; otherwise he is eliminated and the stocks of his semen are destroyed.

Incentive to Participate in Progeny Testing (Young Sire Proving Program)

In order to increase the number of progeny-tested bulls for use by Quebec farmers as quickly as possible, the Department offers to pay the full cost of each first insemination carried out with semen from a specified young bull during a period fixed by the Quebec A.I. Centre.

Farmers may obtain a list of the bulls specified for this subsidy by applying to the local inseminator or regional livestock specialist.

Conditions:

- a) To qualify for this subsidy, a farmer must carry out a system of herd milk testing that is officially recognized for evaluating young bulls;

- b) only matings to purebred females which are registered or identified by an N.I.P. certificate will be accepted for payment;
- c) this subsidy applies only to matings considered to be first matings.

Method of Payment:

Breeding certificates will be checked by the Quebec A.I. Centre, and every three months cooperating farmers will receive a cheque to reimburse them for the cost of the matings in the young sire proving program.

All requests for further information should be made to the Quebec Artificial Insemination Centre, Box 518, St. Hyacinthe, P.Q. J2S 7B8.

III. Classification of female offspring of Quebec A.I. Centre Bulls

Purpose: The progeny testing of dairy bulls is based on the two following criteria: production and conformation.

Data for conformation ratings are obtained from animals officially inspected by classifiers appointed by the respective breed Associations. The reliability of a bull's type proof increases with the number of his classified daughters.

Being well aware of this, the Department seeks to encourage farmers to have their herds classified.

Assistance Offered:

The assistance consists in paying part of the cost of classifying female animals sired by the A.I. Centre's dairy bulls.

Conditions:

To come within the scope of this assistance policy, the animal must:

- a) be a female;
- b) have been sired by one of the A.I. Centre's bulls;
- c) be inspected by an official classifier employed by one of the breed associations.

Method of Payment:

The contribution of the Department of Agriculture is set at one dollar per classified animal which satisfies the above-mentioned conditions.

This sum will be deducted from the amount the farmer will have to pay when his herd is classified.

Partial Reimbursement of Municipal and School Taxes on Property

Nature and aim:

The Real Estate Assessment Act, as amended by Bill 33, assented to July 6, 1973, authorizes the Department of Agriculture to grant to the owner or occupant of a farm partial reimbursement of taxes on his land and buildings. This reimbursement is applicable to such taxes levied since January 1, 1973, including school taxes levied on the same date for 1972-73.

The Act stipulates that the farm must be an immovable operated "bona fide":

- i) for agricultural or horticultural purposes in greenhouses or outdoors;
- ii) for purposes of poultry or beekeeping or the rearing of domestic or other animals;
- iii) as an orchard or a maple grove.

Beneficiaries

A) Agricultural producer:

If such owner or occupant is an agricultural producer within the meaning of the Farm Producers Act, the reimbursement shall be 40 per cent of the municipal real estate and school taxes.

The definition of "agricultural producers" given in the Farm Producers Act is as follows:

"Producer: a person engaged in the production of a farm product except:

- i) a person engaged in such production as an employee within the meaning of the Labour Code;
- ii) a person who exploits the forest, except when he exploits a wooded portion of his farm;
- iii) an individual engaged in the production of a farm product consumed entirely by himself and the members of his family;
- iv) a person whose farm production intended for marketing has an annual value of less than one thousand dollars."

A form to be used in submitting applications for reimbursement will be sent directly by the Department of Agriculture to persons thus recognized as farm producers.

If any person believes he should be recognized as an agricultural producer within the meaning of the Farm Producers Act, he should communicate with the local agricultural information office for appropriate study and recommendation.

If the decision does not satisfy him, he may then appeal to the Quebec Marketing Board, whose decision shall be final and binding on the interested parties.

B) Owner or occupant of a farm other than an agricultural producer within the meaning of the Farm Producers Act.

In such case, a reimbursement of 35 per cent of school taxes only may be granted to the owner or occupant of any immovable operated as a farm in a bona fide manner.

An immovable may be considered to be operated bona fide as a farm if it satisfies the following conditions:

Its operation must really be for agricultural purposes.

Total sales of agricultural products therefrom during the 12 months preceding the levying of the school taxes must be valued at not less than \$500.

Its area must be at least 10 acres.

Additional Information

This program provides for partial reimbursement of real estate taxes levied on a farm or on a woodlot connected with the operation of said farm, including houses and buildings thereon which are intended for its operation. Consequently, any amount levied on an immovable not used in connection with the operation of the farm or woodlot shall not be included in the claim.

Reimbursements are made directly to beneficiaries by the Department of Agriculture and not to the municipal corporation or school board.

The amount of tax entered must not include any arrears, interest or other charges. Moreover, the amount of municipal real estate taxes declared must not include any payment or compensation for municipal services.

If the signer of an application form has not himself paid the real estate taxes on the immovable he operates as occupant, he must attach to his form a document attesting, amongst other things, that he has really operated the farm as occupant and that the owner waives any claim upon the Minister of Agriculture for reimbursement of 35 per cent of the school taxes levied on the said immovables. This document is available at the local agricultural information offices of the Department.

However, even if it is the name of the owner of the immovable which appears on the assessment roll, under the Municipal Code, the Cities and Towns Act and the Education Act, the bill for real estate taxes may be paid by the occupant. It will of course not be necessary for a claimant, who following an agreement with the owner has taken advantage of the provisions in the said legislation, to submit the document mentioned in the preceding paragraph with his application form.

All false claims submitted under this program are subject to the provisions of section 18a of the Department of Agriculture Act which reads as follows:

Excerpt from the Agriculture Department Act

Article 18a

Every person who makes a false declaration to obtain a grant, advance or security for a loan contemplated by this act or an amount payable as assistance under a plan, program or project, commits an offence and is liable for the first offence to a fine of \$500 and, for any subsequent offence within two years, to a fine of \$1,000.

Proceedings under this section are taken under the Summary Convictions Act (Chap. 35) and Part II of that act applies thereto.

This Month with the

QUI

Our Tour to A.C.W.W., Perth 1974

by Hannah Smith,
Lachute, Quebec

How can one write a short report of a tour that lasted four weeks and on which we travelled more than 29,000 miles; a tour that covered Fiji, Australia, New Zealand, and Hawaii; a tour that included a 10-day conference where there were 1,500 delegates as well as a large number of accredited visitors; a tour which kept us busy every day and most of the evenings!

Five delegates from Quebec, Mrs. E. Westover and Mrs. O. Carr from Sutton, Miss Aileen Cassidy from Rawdon, Mrs. R. P. Fraser and myself from Lachute, met the other 22 members who had joined the group in Vancouver at a wine and cheese party arranged by the Executive Travel Co., London, Ontario. There were representatives from five provinces and a more congenial group would be hard to find. Later we met many more Canadians who had joined other tours.

Next day we flew by C.P. Air to Nandi Airport in Fiji, with a fuel stop in Hawaii, losing a day on the way when we crossed the date line. A long, wet, dark drive took us to Paradise Point which lived up to its name during the time we spent there.

In Sura we were introduced to the native market where we learned to haggle over prices, finally paying a quarter of the price originally asked. A drive along the coast showed us the beauty of the island, the luxuriant growth of plants and

trees resulting from a yearly rainfall of 132 inches.

A glass-bottomed boat took us to see underwater coral and fish, but rough water prevented us from going outside the barrier reef. During a stop at Nukulau Island, some relaxed on the white sands while those with bathing suits swam in the Pacific. Fiji is one of the places we all wish we could visit again when we would have more time to enjoy the exotic flowers and the friendly people.

An early morning flight from Nandi brought us to Sydney by noon where we received only \$76.84 for \$100 Canadian. For the next two days we went on tours, visited museums, attended a musical evening at the new Opera House (the pride of Sydney), enjoyed a boat trip around their famous harbour, and heard many stories about their early convict settlers.

Sunday a.m. saw us off to Canberra, the capital, a planned city in which there are no large industries and where no hedges or fences are allowed along the streets but where each new home is given 40 flowering shrubs and 10 trees. Dinner awaited us at Tra-Lee Farm after which we saw a sheep dog at work, sheep shearing, and some native wild animals.

We spent Monday in Melbourne with visits to Cook's Cottage, the Cricket Grounds which seat more than 120,000, the historic Como House with its valuable antiques and the Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary. Wayside pools were covered with colourful water lilies while alongside grew clumps of cala lilies which, to them, are weeds.

The business meetings at Perth will be reported on by Mrs. Westover, but even the heavy rain could not dampen the excitement when the A.C.W.W. flag was accepted by the Mayor of Perth at the Concert Hall. During the previous year it had been taken to all the Australian branches and was escorted to the Hall by eight mounted policemen, preceded by others on motorcycles. Later it was announced that \$10,000 had been raised by the branches for the A.C.W.W. budget.

I don't think anyone will ever forget the religious service held Sunday morning when representatives of six faiths: Christian, Moslem, Hebrew, Hindu, Buddhist, and Baha'i took part. The theme of each offering was peace. Nor will we forget the 200-voice women's choir, dressed in yellow gowns made of wool especially for them.

After the service we were taken in buses to different districts around Perth where we were entertained to lunch and dinner by groups of Western Australian members. The drive took us through orchards and vineyards in full bloom, as well as through woodlands where wild flowers grew in abundance. We understood then why Western Australia is called the Wildflower State. Great care is taken to preserve these areas.

National Day in King's Park was another memorable occasion when we could visit informally with the members and enjoy the entertainment put on by each Australian State.

Following the Conference, our group flew to Auckland and Roto-

rura, New Zealand, where we were delighted with the green pastures filled with dairy and beef cattle as well as sheep. Many breeds of sheep are raised, some for their wool, others for their meat. Different breeds produce wool suitable for weaving into different materials.

The geysers and boiling mud at Rotorura amazed us and the idea of cooking meals over the steam issuing from fissures in the gardens was intriguing. The Maori influence was seen in the decorations of the buildings. St. Faith's Church was an outstanding example and the window depicting "Christ Walking on the Water" was most unusual, for the figure of Jesus was on a window overlooking a lake.

Our visit to Hawaii was also too short but we spent a day driving across the island to visit pineapple groves, surf-beaten beaches, and the Indonesian Cultural Centre.

It may seem that our only purpose in going to the A.C.W.W. Conference was to see new country but, actually, the Conference itself was a wonderful experience. To attend meetings where women from around the world gave their reports and told of their hopes and plans for the future was, in itself, exciting. To meet and talk with these women made us realize what a splendid organization the A.C.W.W. is, and what worth while work it has done and is doing wherever it has been organized.

Members' Conference

The Members' Conference of the Chateauguay-Huntingdon Counties Women's Institutes marked the 50th Anniversary of the County organization. A large gathering of

ladies attended the all-day event on Friday, October 25 at the Presbyterian Church in Huntingdon.

Two Provincial guests, 1st Vice-President Miss Edna Smith and 2nd Vice-President Mrs. Wells Coates were welcomed by County President Mrs. Cameron Bryson.

One of the highlights of the day took place during the noon hour meal when Mrs. James Robertson held a telephone interview with the CBM host, Mr. John Grant, on Midday Magazine.

The CBM, having heard about the 50th Anniversary of the County organization, had phoned and wanted to hear about our activities. Mrs. Robertson outlined some of the projects in which we are interested. With a radio and tape recorder on hand, the ladies heard Mrs. Robertson tell how the WI started in Stoney Creek, Ontario, and spread around the world with, at present, an associated membership of eight million.

During the morning session the members formed eight study and discussion groups. The findings revealed a need and a trend towards modernization of the WI.

Question: "What is the future of the WI?"

It was pointed out that there is a bright future but the need of doing new things to keep up interest was emphasized. The younger women and all newcomers in a community should be invited and encouraged to come to meetings and to join. Each member should seek out new members. It is a good way to meet neighbours and to make new friends.

Question: "Are we doing all we can to encourage younger women to join our organization?"

It was felt more could be done by providing baby sitters to allow young mothers time to attend meetings and that a change in time of meetings to accommodate them would be helpful. Even the forming of a separate young women's group might be the answer. They should be encouraged to participate, thus becoming a contributing member.

Question: "How can we make our meetings more interesting?"

Suggestions included forming committees for much of the business, etc. Have interesting speakers on topics of community interest. Use local talent whenever possible. Demonstrations, quizzes, contests, trips, entertaining husbands, potluck suppers, and raising money to support community projects were also mentioned.

Question: "What can we do to put more meaning into the lives of our senior citizens?"

We should visit them and encourage young people to do things for the elderly. Arrange phone calls to check on those living alone. We can read to them and mail letters for them. We can provide Christmas baskets, gifts, and tray favours at other times of the year. We can help at recreation and craft centres where available or help to form such centres. Meals-on-Wheels and home-help projects could be organized. Save magazines and pass them along. Provide transportation. All would be appreciated by the senior citizens.

Two sisters, Mrs. Francis Greig, left, and Mrs. Grace Younie recently received their 50-year pins at Howick WI.



A delicious, hot meal was served at noon by the Presbyterian Church ladies. The 50th Anniversary cake, cut by two senior members, Mrs. C. Petch and Mrs. J. Bruce, was shared by all.

The afternoon session opened with a singsong. Two square dance numbers by four couples of the Young Athelstan Dancers group were much enjoyed.

Miss Smith made us aware that WI covers a big territory — from branch through county, province and on to A.C.W.W. This year Quebec is twinned with Prince Edward Island. Projects such as Pennies for Friendship, Operation Eyesight, and Food for the Hungry Fund are worthy of support.

Mrs. W. Coates provided information on the duties of the officers and conveners, and stressed the importance of the local members. We saw how our membership fee was spent. The various cultural and handicraft projects and competitions at the county, provincial, and national levels were outlined and members urged to enter.

Compton Contributions

Compton County awards three Bursaries each year to graduating students of Alexander Galt Regional High School. Two of these Bursaries are in memory of outstanding citizens. Funds for the Bursaries are obtained mainly from the booth at the Cookshire Fair. Congratulations and best wishes go to the 1974 winners.

At the end of October, Bury, Brookbury, Canterbury, and Scotstown WIs held a Halloween

dinner at the Pope Memorial Elementary School in Bury for 120 children. Halloween was the theme of the day with black cats, witches, and ghosts galore! A turkey dinner, with trimmings, soon disappeared. The children ended the festivities with a parade and contest of Halloween costumes.

Collections for UNICEF were made in the county and prizes given to those who had collected the most. November 11 was observed with the sale of poppies and Armistice Services. Several members attended the Agricultural Salon at Place Bonaventure in Montreal. Donations have been made to the Food for the Hungry Fund, Pennies for Friendship, Quebec Service Fund, the Northern Extension Fund, and others.

A Short Tribute to a Long-Time Member

"Once a member, always a member," so says Mrs. James Bruce of Ormstown WI (Chateauguay-Huntingdon Co.) Mrs. Bruce joined the WI in Howick although her home was in Aubrey and when the Aubrey-Riverfield branch was formed she was the first President. Later she moved to Rockburn and became a member of the Franklin branch.

In 1938 a group of Franklin members met with some interested ladies from Ormstown, and Mrs. Bruce, as County President, assisted by Miss McCain of Macdonald College, organized a WI branch at Ormstown.

Mrs. Bruce is now nearly 95 and is still an active member of

her branch and is a life member. She feels very left out if she is not asked to help with projects. She loves to bake and still makes her own bread. She will soon be moving into the new elderly citizens' residence in Ormstown, and we feel sure she will still be busy as a member — though "retired."

Interesting Speakers

Recent speakers at WI meetings at Howick (Chateauguay-Huntingdon Co.) were the Rev. David McCord, Executive Director for Church Council on justice and Mrs. Ferns, RN, General Manager of the Barrie Memorial Hospital.

The Rev. McCord is chaplain at the Cowansville penal institution. He spoke on his work and the need for mature persons to work as volunteers with trained personnel. These people act as a link between prisoners and the outside world. He stressed it was better to keep people out of prison rather than to try and cope after. We should learn how to deal with delinquents before it is too late and to help families who are having problems with their children. He challenged women in the community to do something.

Mrs. Ferns spoke on her work in the different phases of the administration of the hospital and its needs. The WI and members of the community work hard to raise funds for special projects in the hospital and so were interested to hear Mrs. Ferns' talk.

Two members from this branch recently received their 50-year

Pioneer WI recently celebrated their 50th Anniversary. Top: Mrs. Clifford Matthews, President, and Mrs. Parsons, Vice-President, wait to welcome guests at the front door of the Carrillon Museum. Bottom left: Miss Ruth Todd, daughter of the 1st President, addresses the group. Seated at her right is Mrs. G. McGibbon. Bottom right: Miss Emma Kerr cuts the cake with the assistance of Mrs. Peggy Jones, left, and Mrs. Margaret Hyde.



pins. They are Mrs. Frances Greig and Mrs. Grace Younie.

PUBLICITY

(Some hints taken from "Getting Your News into Print" pamphlet.)

What is Publicity? It is letting others know what is happening, i.e., "news" and "news is a happening about local people and local events. It's new, important information about what is or will be happening or what has happened". News of something that happened weeks ago is no longer of any interest, so send your news items to your local paper or to the County Convener right after your meeting.

Organize your story. Put the most important facts first. Begin with a "who", a "what", a "where", a "when", a "why", or a "how" sentence. The first paragraph should attract the reader and make him want to read the whole story.

The most important facts follow the first paragraph, with the least important details at the end. If the editor hasn't enough room, he/she will be able to cut off the end without spoiling the main facts of the story.

Leave about a three-inch space at the top of the page and a generous margin at the sides (1½ inches on the L and 1 inch on the R). Have a double space between the lines at least. This gives the editor room for a headline and for any additions.

comments, or printing instructions that should be necessary. Keep sentences short — average 17 words and use simple words, i.e., Use "get" instead of "acquire" "take part" instead of "participate", etc.

If you write your story in long hand, leave space as mentioned before and print the names of persons and places.

When sending in news of speakers or demonstrations, include some details of what was said or shown.

I hope these few hints will help you with the news you send to your local papers. For the W.I. — keep the general outlines in mind — names; some details of speakers; Roll Calls and some of the answers if we can learn something from

them; be prompt with your news; make sure you have the facts straight.

Remember the special articles from the branches. If you don't know your County's month for publicity, write and ask me. These articles can be about a special event or a human interest story on a member or a group. They do not have to be too long. This is your chance to get some publicity for your Branch or County.

Q.W.I. Publicity Convener.
Mrs. Anne Robertson,

A Very Special Day

Since *Aubrey-Riverfield* WI started over 50 years ago, the members have enjoyed a special day each year. The first program committee set aside one meeting for social service. This day, in the past few years, has become the Christmas meeting.

In November members hand in quilt blocks of a specified size that they have made. These are put together by one of the good sewers. Sometimes there may be three quilt tops from all the blocks.

On the day members arrive early with needle and thimble and a contribution to the "potluck" lunch. They work till noon, break for lunch and then back to the frames. The monthly meeting is held while they work. In former days, the quilts were donated to the Red Cross or to families who had lost their homes by fire, but now they are sent to the nurse at the Regional High School who knows families who can use them.

"What fun we have had! We are keeping up the wonderful art of quilting besides helping someone in need."

Dear W.I. Members:

I hope you had a happy time over the holidays. The year went fast. I would like to mention a few of the latest highlights:

A very successful "first" was sponsored by the *Grosse Isle* branch in the form of an exhibition for adults and children. A popular section of this was the pet show for the children with prizes for the "best trained" dog and "best groomed" cat. Other entries were vegetables (a prize pumpkin was 33 pounds) and flowers, with junior and adult sections. The handicraft section was outstanding with many beautiful crocheted doilies, knitting, embroidery, afghans, cushions, etc. Prizes for the exhibition came to \$120 and all students who entered were given a consolation prize. The members are most encouraged with their project and are already planning for a bigger and better one next year. At their regular meeting the speaker, Mrs. Norma Benson, gave an informative talk on what judges look for in quilts and other handmade articles.

Many of you attended the *Salon d'Agriculture* in October. Most of you commemorated Remembrance day and some sold poppies. Others sponsored UNICEF collections. Donations have been made to the Food for the Hungry Fund (*Grenville* donated the proceeds from a

sale of jams and jellies). *Rawdon* had extra funds and are using them to sponsor a family in India.

The *Douglas Hospital* was remembered and the "forgotten patients." A large number of knitted mitts and socks were made by the elderly ladies of the *Wales Home* in *Richmond* County for a local retarded children's home. Others in this county also knitted for this home. *Rouville* sent jams and jellies to the *Montreal Diet Dispensary*.

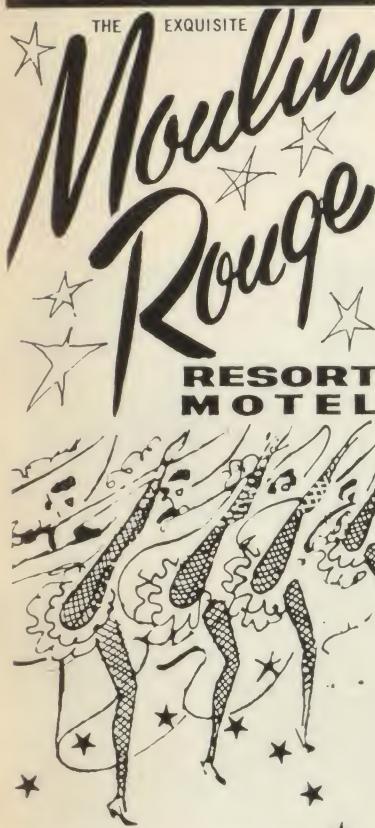
An interesting part of any meeting is hearing articles or speakers. Some heard recently were on farming in Italy; the Northwest Passage voyage of the R.C.M.P. vessel, *St. Roche*; living conditions in Venezuela where there is so much difference between those who have money and the poor; *Wright* had a visitor from Belfast who told about conditions around her home.

Congratulations to *Cleveland* who celebrated their 55th Anniversary — they had a buffet supper and two of their Charter Members were present. Two members of *Gore* received 50-year pins. A 100th Anniversary cake was made and decorated by *East Clifton* and presented to their municipality. Some of you have new members — do try and encourage more — remember the FWIC new member contest.

I shall leave you with this thought: "Life is like a grindstone, whether it polishes you up or wears you down depends on what you are made of."

Mrs. James Robertson,
QWI Publicity Convener.

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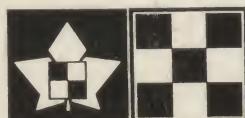
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